

Claims

- [c1] **What is claimed is:**
- 1.A bootable software delivery device comprising:
a connection port for connecting the software delivery device to a computer;
a microcontroller coupling the connection port for controlling the software delivery device; and
a flash memory coupling the microcontroller for storing a software;
wherein the microcontroller is so programmed that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the software delivery device.
- [c2] 2.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the software from the flash memory of the software delivery device.
- [c3] 3.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.
- [c4] 4.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.
- [c5] 5.The software delivery device of claim 1 wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.
- [c6] 6.A software delivery device for providing software copy protection, the software delivery device comprising:
a connection port for electrically connecting the software delivery device to a computer;
a microcontroller ,electrically connected to the connection port, in which an authentication program is installed for booting the computer from the software delivery device;
a flash memory electrically connected to the microcontroller, the flash memory comprising a boot sector for booting the computer in accordance with the authentication program; and
a private program stored in the flash memory, the private program being executable by the computer only after booting from the boot sector is

performed;

wherein the authentication program instructs the microcontroller to return a virtual boot sector rather than the boot sector to the computer.

- [c7] 7.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the microcontroller prevents copying of the private program from the flash memory of the software delivery device.
 - [c8] 8.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is an integrated drive electronics (IDE) port.
 - [c9] 9.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a small computer system interface (SCSI) port.
 - [c10] 10.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the connection port is a universal serial bus (USB) port.
 - [c11] 11.The software delivery device of claim 6 wherein the authentication program is stored in a read only memory of the microcontroller.
 - [c12] 12.A method for protecting a software, the method comprising:
providing a bootable device for delivering the software, the bootable device comprising a flash memory for storing the software, a connection port for connecting to a computer, and a microcontroller for executing the software with the computer via the connection port; and
programming the microcontroller in such a way that the software is executable by the computer only when the computer is booted up from the bootable device.